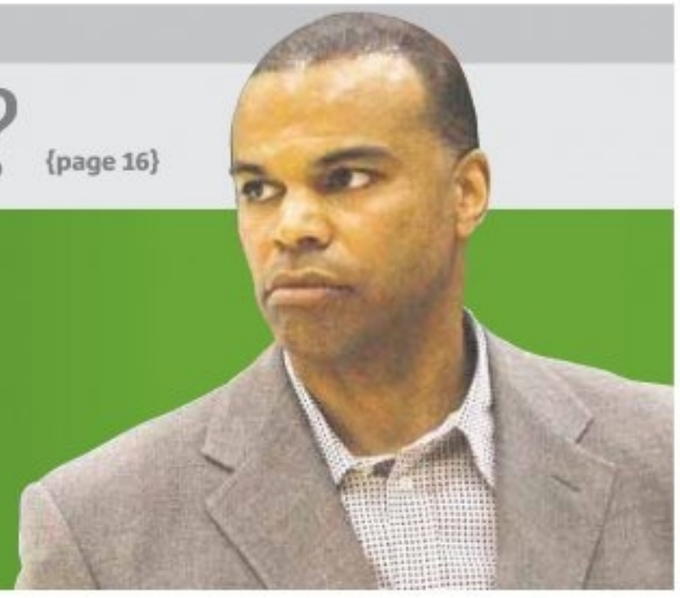
LETTERS@METRO.US

DID HARVARD GET BAD DRAW? {page 16}



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BOSTON
Tuesday, March 13, 2012

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Transit police Flunk students' report

A youth group will present safety officers with survey results today on their interactions with the city's youth It's not good news {page 02}

Metropolitik

Romney woos the South with redneck joker

Is Foxworthy the ultimate Republican compliment?
Will conservative voters buy Mitt's pandering? {page 07}

Hanging out on the Out Islands

Yes, it's been a little warmer lately, but you can do better, in the Bahamas {page 14}

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1

In the news

27.6

It takes nearly a half an hour for the average Bay State commuter to drive to work, according to a survey by the Beacon Hill Institute at Suffolk University. The recently released State Competitiveness Report said Massachusetts "continues to suffer from ... poor travel-time-to-work rankings." METRO

Today's local tweet

"On days like this, I don't even care that all of Boston will be under water in 50 years."

@BENGREENE, WHO DISMISSED THE FUTURE IMPACTS OF GLOBAL WARMING AS THE TEMPERATURE IN BOSTON REACHED 71 DEGREES AND BROKE THE 1902 RECORD OF 69 DEGREES FOR MARCH 12.

Food. Contest

▶ Ready? Set. Shuck!

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

Aw shucky ducky! Oyster battle at Seafood Show

Chefs from across the country competed yesterday in an oyster-shucking competition during the annual International Boston Seafood Show. The event, held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, pitted cooks against the clock and each other. The show lasts through today and was expected to be the largest in the convention's history with attendees from more than 120 countries, officials said. David Leck, of Washington, was the winner. METRO

Lesbian shirt stirs debate

LYNN. A Lynn English High School student has caused some debate over a shirt she wore to school that read "All the cool girls are lesbians." The student wrote a letter to the School Committee chair saying a vice principal asked her to never wear it again, according to the Daily Item.

The committee chair said that the student had been wronged. METRO

Boston is competitive

BOSTON. The Hub ranks No. 10 on a recent survey of the world's most competitive cities. Living in a competitive city, Bostonians will want to know who beat them out. It is the dreaded city of New York, which ranked No. 1 on the Economist Intelligence Unit survey. METRO

Teenagers to transit cops: You're failing at your job

Students grade T cops on performance, interactions Transit Police say they are willing to work with group to maintain good relationship

It's report card time for the MBTA and, according to some Boston teens, the Transit Police didn't make the grade.

Students from the Hyde Square Task Force, a Jamaica Plain-based youth community development organization, said officers are failing to communicate with teens and some feel "disrespected" by "rude" officers who interact with them daily.

The group is scheduled to hand-deliver a report card to Transit Police at Jackson Square station today with the hope that officers will work with them to improve police personnel behavior.

"They can be rude to students," said 17-year-old Astrid Pena. "Yelling, sometimes they confiscate bus passes, kick [students] out of the train station."

Pena said there have been instances where officers allegedly "point out specific groups" and search them "without a valid reason."

"Just things that shouldn't be happening," she said. "It's going to create a barrier between youth and police."

The group will also reveal results of a recent survey of 700 students that take the T. Results this year showed 218 young riders "strongly agree" that T police could use better training when it comes to communicating with Boston teens.

According to the survey, 242 students said Transit Police have not been successful in making them feel safe when on public transit. "The general vibe — [police] are not going to get a passing grade," said Carla Poulos, manager of organizing and policy initiatives for the youth group. Poulos said some of the interactions have created "racial barriers" between teens and officers.

However, the survey results weren't all negative. According to the report, 39 percent of students said T Police act in a respectful way toward teens, up from the 2010 survey.

Pena said students could be more cooperative with cops, too. "This is a 50-50 type of situation. We are not just putting all the blame on Transit Police," she said.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

Transit Police want to work together

BOSTON. For a second year, students will deliver Transit Police a report card.

Deputy Chief Joseph O'Connor said he feels officers "do a very good job," but he is willing to work with the youths to make more changes if necessary.

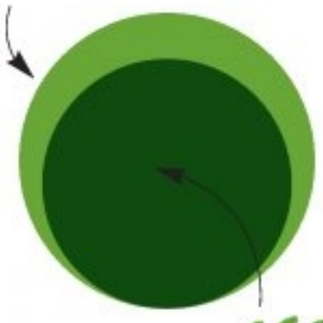
"We will continue to have an open dialogue with the group to try and build better relationships," he said. "We have met with them over the past years, and we believe we can work together to find solutions."

O'Connor said officers went through additional training to improve youth-cop relations after the last survey.

How they rate

The survey said hundreds of students observed or experienced T police:

210
PUSHING OR SHOVING



169
USING INSULTS WITH RACIALLY CHARGED WORDS

Grading scale

Transit Police were graded in several categories:

- Race relations
- Communication
- Behavior
- Effort
- Follow-through on promises

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COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

▶ Advocates — some wearing costumes — rally in front of the State House yesterday for alternative means to fund the state's transportation issues.

State leaders want tax revenue to fix T

Transportation groups seek long-term funding solutions Bill seeks to examine miles driven fee

Transportation advocates flocked to Beacon Hill yesterday to urge state legislators to create a long-term, statewide transportation funding solution for the Bay State that would meet the needs of drivers and public transit riders alike.

"This is not just the T's problem, it's a statewide problem and there needs to be a statewide, long-term solution," said Sen. Pat Jehlen.

A bill that went before the Joint Committee on Transportation yesterday asked state leaders to support the idea to build a safer, more modern transit system across the entire commonwealth "that enhances public transportation ridership, and spurs job creation and economic development."

Quoted

"It's time now to say the word. Not just revenue ... taxes. We're going to need tax revenue in order to pay the bills."

STATE SEN. PAT JEHLEN

The bill suggests launching a Vehicle Miles Traveled pilot study, examining the feasibility of supplementing the gas tax with a mileage-based fee for drivers, and exploring a UPass program for university students to help fund the ailing transit system.

The legislation also sought to establish a special transportation finance commission to develop a comprehensive plan for the state.

Kristina Egan, director of Transportation for Massachusetts, said from the Berkshires to Cape Cod, residents want increased investments in roads and railways.

STEVE ANNEAR
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Clover truck will make a stop on Newbury Street

Spring has sprung and Clover's business is blossoming. Soon there will be a place to stop and get a soy BLT while shopping on Newbury Street or getting off of a Green Line train.

According to MBTA officials, starting this spring, Clover will open a new breakfast and lunch hut right outside the T's Hynes Convention Center station.

Clover, which runs a popular food truck in the city, will rent the space for a year from the T at $1,000 per month, plus utilities.

The space is owned by the MBTA and will help the transit agency bring in some extra nonfare revenue, according to T spokesman Joe Pesaturo.

Customers will be able to gobble up a selection of specialty sandwiches and vegetarian options. METRO/SA

▶ A rendering of the Clover hut.

MBTA

Ice cream spot melts away

BOSTON. After 20 years on Newbury Street, J.P. Licks will no longer be serving up cones to customers.

According to the store's founder and owner, Vince Petryk, the shop had to call it quits since their space got a new landlord.

"[They] want to charge much higher rent than we can afford selling ice cream cones," said Petryk.

Petryk said the move was "purely business."

J.P. Licks is already on the hunt for a new spot in the Back Bay area, and will also be opening a new shop on Charles Street soon. METRO/SA

Justices to get JFK award

BOSTON. Three former Iowa Supreme Court justices who helped drive the unanimous decision to legalize same-sex marriage in that state have been named this year's recipients of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. Caroline Kennedy plans to present the award to Marsha Ternus, David Baker and Michael Streit at a May 7 ceremony at the Kennedy Presidential Library. SHNS

Greig will plead guilty

BOSTON. Court documents made available yesterday show that the longtime companion of alleged fugitive mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger will plead guilty.

Catherine Greig, 60, signed the agreement last week, and is due in court tomorrow.

As part of the deal, she will not have to testify, according to the Globe. METRO

Murder trial nears close

BOSTON. Closing arguments in the trial of two men accused in the Mattapan massacre case will be given today.

Dwayne Moore and Edward Washington are accused in the murders.

Closing arguments come after dozens of people testified over about a month as the prosecution laid out its case. Defense attorneys called three witnesses before resting. METRO/BOSTON.COM

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Shooting sparks call for US exit from Afghanistan

The massacre of 16 villagers by a U.S. soldier has triggered angry calls for an immediate American exit from Afghanistan as Washington tries to negotiate a long-term presence to keep the country from sliding into chaos again.

Just days before Sunday's attack, Kabul and Washington had made significant progress in negotiations on a Strategic Partnership Agreement that would allow American advisers and special forces to stay in Afghanistan after foreign combat troops leave at the end of 2014.

But securing a full deal may be far more difficult now after the shooting spree in villages in the southern province of Kandahar, the Taliban heartland, which killed mostly women and children.

REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ A mourner cries over the bodies of Afghan civilians, allegedly shot by a rogue U.S. soldier in Kandahar province on Sunday.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Joe Paterno

Board: Paterno showed lack of leadership

The Penn State's Board of Trustees yesterday defended its firing of legendary football coach Joe Paterno and the university's president, saying they showed a "failure of leadership" in not doing more after reports of child sexual abuse by former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

Paterno and Graham Spanier were fired in November after Sandusky was accused of sexually abusing young boys over a 15-year period.

Many alumni were upset over the firing of Paterno, who was head coach for 46 years. With 409 victories at Penn State, he won more games in big-time college football than any other coach in the sport's history. Paterno died in January of lung cancer. REUTERS

Defense wraps up in Rutgers gay bullying case

The defense wrapped up its case yesterday in the gay bullying trial of a former Rutgers student accused of spying on a sexual encounter between his male roommate and another man.

The alleged victim, Tyler Clementi, later committed suicide by jumping off the George Washington Bridge.

Dharun Ravi, 20, told a judge that he would not testify in his own defense at the trial, which now moves to closing arguments today.

"It's my decision, yes," Ravi told the judge after the ninth and final defense witness testified.

Ravi is charged with 15 counts of witness and evidence tampering, invasion of privacy and bias intimidation — which is a hate crime — in Middlesex County, New Jersey Court. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison. REUTERS

CNN to buy Mashable?

CNN is in talks to buy social media news site Mashable for more than $200 million, according to a source familiar with the discussion.

Reuters' blogger Felix Salmon said the deal could be announced as soon as today, although another person familiar with the matter said it was not likely to be announced this week.

Mashable covers and aggregates a wide range of news related to the fast-evolving social media and Internet sector covering companies ranging from start-ups to larger players including Facebook and Twitter.

CNN spokeswoman Christa Robinson, commenting on the Mashable reports said: "We do not engage in speculation about our business and we aren't commenting on these reports."

A Mashable spokesperson was not immediately available.

CNN has been trying to evolve its business to compete more effectively in the Web-based social media age.

Last August CNN bought Zite, a news application for the iPad. REUTERS

Campaign goes south: Pandering for the vote

▶ Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney greets supporters during a campaign stop at the Whistle Stop cafe in Mobile, Alabama. Our guess: Romney just happens to LOVE whistles!

WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

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For complaints, suggestions and digital attaboys, e-mail us at brayden.simms@metro.us.

You might be a redneck if you're voting in the Deep South primaries in Alabama and Mississippi today. (We mean no offense by this; more on it in just a bit.) Of course, there are many possible neck colors among the Southern voting populace, but Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum are probably hoping for the darkest crimson as they attempt to convince conservatives that they best represent old Dixie ideology in an effort to amp their flagging candidacies.

Now, we belong to the camp that sees Mitt Romney as the inevitable GOP presidential nominee. That's based on the potent combination of his superior (estimated) delegate haul and his advantages in establishment support and, the real vote-buyer, campaign cash. But math and numbers have never had strong support among the Republican base, so we're guessing that today's elections will exist outside of this framework.

Romney understands his campaign's failure to gain serious conservative traction in the South, with its large evangelical demographics. (He admitted that the contests were "a bit of an away game" for him.) As such, he's stooped to Gingrich-levels of obvious pandering, telling a Mississippi audience last week that he's "learning to say 'y'all' and I like grits, strange things are happening to me." He's also enlisting the support of You Might Be A Redneck luminary Jeff Foxworthy. (See? Foreshadowing, not hate speech!)

What makes the whole situation even more cringeworthy, though, is this: There is some evidence to suggest that these deceitful tactics might actually work. According to Public Policy Polling data, a near-plurality of likely Republican voters in Alabama and Mississippi hold seriously questionable views on Barack Obama, including the pervasive belief that the president is in fact a secret Muslim. It's not a huge leap to imagine that a group of people so fundamentally opposed to Obama that they believe this sort of unsupported fallacy might actually fall victim to the irreconcilable idea that Romney may truly be representative of the Deep South, with its historical poverty and, yes, love of grits.

The Not-Romneys must be hoping that the South asserts its famous independence and refutes Mitt's awkward vote-shopping. It'd take a huge upset to change the campaign narrative. But then, stranger things have happened.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GET FED

Because sometimes you only have time to skim the headlines:

- "Santorum's war on teleprompters" **CNN**
- "DOJ Blocks Discriminatory Texas Voter ID Law" **THE NATION**
- "Bradley Manning's treatment was cruel and inhuman, UN torture chief rules" **THE GUARDIAN**
- "Can Progressives Ride the Occupy Train to Congress?" **MOTHER JONES**
- "No GOP Casa Blanca" **THE DAILY BEAST**
- "Mitt Romney Might Not Be A Redneck" **THINKPROGRESS**
- "Rick Santorum clings to slapdash style" **POLITICO**
- "Paul supporters seize control of Clark County GOP party" **REVIEWJOURNAL**
- "George Edwards and the Powerless Presidential Bully Pulpit" **NEW YORKER**
- "Americans Elect Is Raising Money To Repay Its Millionaire Founders" **BUZZ FEED**

45%

According to Public Policy Polling, nearly half of likely right-leaning Alabaman voters think that President Obama is a Muslim. In Alabama, meanwhile, some 21 percent think interracial marriage should be illegal.

Under attack: 'Doonesbury' comic strip

NEW YORK. The War on Women has now made its way to our newspapers' comics pages: Citing a host of reasons from "graphic content" to a fear that readers would misinterpret it for an actual news article, many papers across the country have refused to run the latest "Doonesbury" comic.

The controversial strip, running all week online and in select, brave news outlets, satirizes the debate on reproductive freedoms. In it, a woman going to the doctor for an abortion is first forced to undergo a thorough medical shaming.

Said editor Jim Thompson of Georgia's Banner Herald: "I thought there was a real possibility that readers might confuse ... 'Doonesbury' with Georgia's proposed abortion legislation." **METRO/BS**

Steele: 'I wanted a brokered convention'

NEW YORK. We may finally understand why, exactly, the Republican campaign for presidency has been so drawn out, so contentious: Apparently they wanted it that way. Former Republican National Committee chair Michael Steele admitted yesterday to engineering the whole extended debacle.

"I wanted a brokered convention," Steele said, according to Mother Jones. "That was one of my goals."

Steele explained he wanted to drum up excitement in the race, envious of the way that the extended 2008 battle between Obama and Hillary Clinton strengthened both candidates. **METRO/BS**

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2

THE WORD

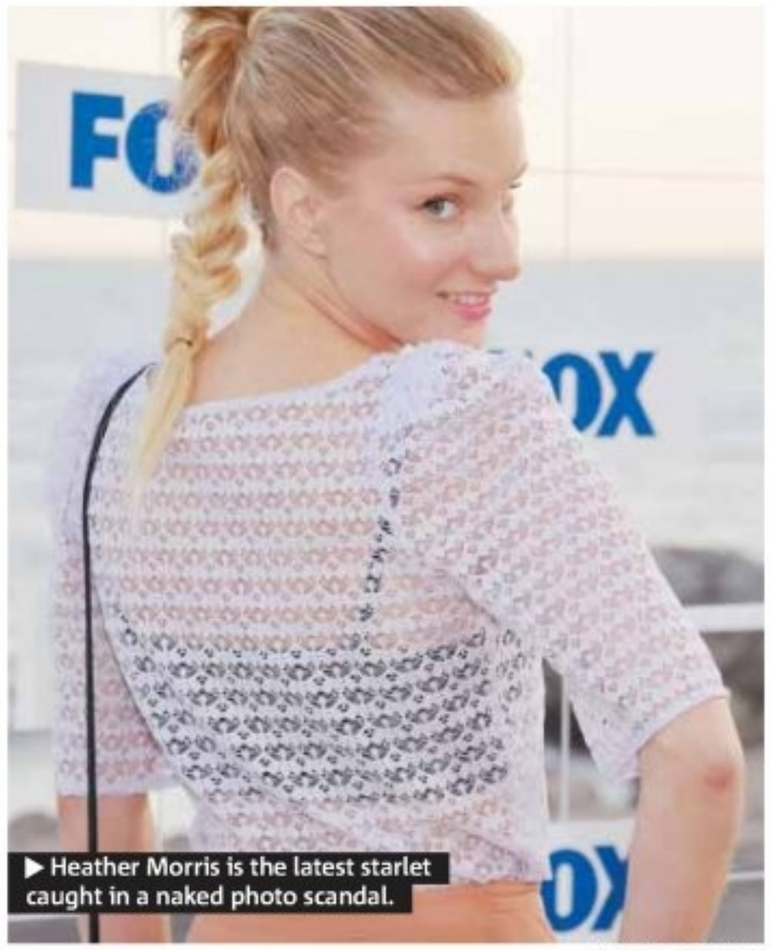
Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Heather Morris naked? Yawn.

Nude photo "scandals" are becoming about as fun to write about as celebrity divorces. (Meaning: They're becoming a dime a dozen.)

The latest celebrity to fall victim to a phone hacking scandal? "Glee" star **Heather Morris**. A week after **Olivia Munn** and "Mad Men" star **Christina Hendricks** were hacked, naked photos of Morris in various risque, naked poses were leaked on Sunday night. There's been no comment from Morris' team regarding the leak.

Before I jump into a few thoughts on this: Yes, I'm paid to think about the implications of nudie pics, and yes, my parents are very proud of me. Now then. Why are these pictures always nude self-portraits? And where are the pics they (should) be receiving in return? Honestly, by now aren't you all as bored of these "leaks" as I am? The only way this news will become exciting again is when a star's phone gets hacked and it'll have nude photos of other people on it.



▶ Heather Morris is the latest starlet caught in a naked photo scandal.

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

What Ferrell thought about Lohan

Ferrell

So just what did one of the most famous veterans of "Saturday Night Live" think about **Lindsay Lohan**'s infamous hosting ability two weeks ago? To hear **Will Ferrell** tell it, she didn't do as badly as everyone thinks.

"I only saw little blips on the monologue," said the star during an interview with Metro to promote his new movie, "Casa de Mi Padre." "It seemed fine. I mean, I think anytime you can poke fun at yourself, I think the audience totally appreciates it and finds it endearing. I thought it was a good, funny move on her part."

As for Ferrell returning to "SNL" for a hosting gig? It's always a possibility.

"You know, we're always being asked, every year, and it just depends. [I'm] always up for it, but it's just a question of schedule," he says.

— With additional reporting by Meredith Engel

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

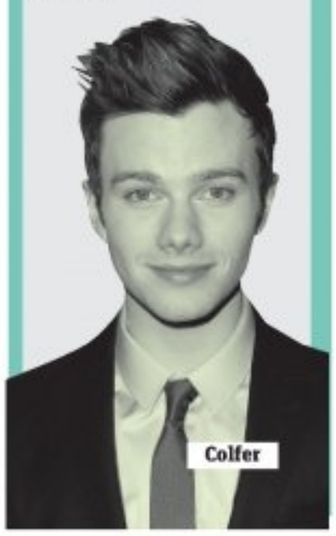
Joan Rivers isn't a fan of kids on planes, Dolly Parton is OK with a little bit of craziness, Chris Colfer is thinking about the past and Steve Martin is lying.

@Joan_Rivers
Just read that Jet Blue kicked a family off a flight when their 2-year-old had a tantrum. They are officially my favorite airline!

@Dolly_Parton
I think that all creative people are a little bit nuts.

@chriscolfer
I wonder, in lieu of texting, if anyone ever sent drunk pigeon messages back in the day...

@SteveMartinToGo
Got my first gray hair today.



Colfer

Talking points

McConaughey hearts Texas

Matthew McConaughey recently moved his family from L.A. to Austin, Texas, and he couldn't be happier with the decision. "No one recognizes you and no one asks you, 'Hey, what do you do?' — because I don't think anyone cares," he explained during a speech at the Texas Film Hall of Fame awards, according to People magazine. "My mother-in-law from Brazil has traveled around the world, and we've lived in Los Angeles and New York," McConaughey said during his presentation. "She says to me the other day, 'In L.A., people will walk on your back and stand on your shoulders to get where they are going; in New York, they will just pull out a gun and tell you they will kill you. Here in Texas, everybody walks together.'"

▶ McConaughey

Madonna on juggling it all

It's not easy being a single mother and having a career — not even for **Madonna**. "I'm not going to lie — it's hard work having four kids and doing all the work I do," she tells the Sun. "It's a challenge juggling everything — multitasking is my middle name. I try to express that." As for rebounding after her separation from ex-husband **Guy Ritchie**? "Sometimes I cope with it very well, sometimes it's a struggle," she says.

The Queen is a big jokester?

While most wouldn't think of the British Royal Family as a humorous bunch, **Prince Harry** insists there are a lot of laughs out of the public view. "She is very funny, but I think she gets it from my grandfather. They are very funny together," Harry tells the Telegraph about his grandmother, **Queen Elizabeth II**. "My family is the same as any other family when it comes to humor behind closed doors, though I'd like to think I was funnier than my grandmother."

▶ Queen Elizabeth II

Yes, it's true: Berry is engaged

Olivier Martinez and **Halle Berry** have kept fairly mum on their engagement, but Martinez is happy to confirm the happy news. "Yes, of course we're engaged," he tells Miami.com. at the opening of his new restaurant, Villa Azur. There are some things that Martinez would like to clear up, though: "There is a jeweler taking credit for doing the ring and it's a lie," he says. "They have nothing to do with this."

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John Varvatos threw one heck of a fundraiser ... and other pics for your Tuesday

1. Musician **Dave Matthews** performed onstage during John Varvatos' ninth annual Stuart House benefit, which raises funds for the rape treatment center at the Santa Monica-UCLA hospital, at Varvatos' flagship LA store in California on Sunday.

2. Emily VanCamp attended The Paley Center for Media's PaleyFest 2012 honoring her show "Revenge" at Saban Theatre on Sunday in Beverly Hills, Calif.

3. Leslie Mann and her husband, producer and director **Judd Apatow**, also attended the Stuart House benefit.

4. Guess who else was there? Actor **Justin Theroux** (doesn't he ever get warm wearing multi-layers in California?).

5. Rachel Zoe showed off her best accessory, her son Skyler Morrison Berman, at the event.

1: JOHN SHEARER/GETTY IMAGES FOR JOHN VARVATOS
2: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES
3-4-5: STEPHANIE KEENAN/GETTY IMAGES FOR JOHN VARVATOS

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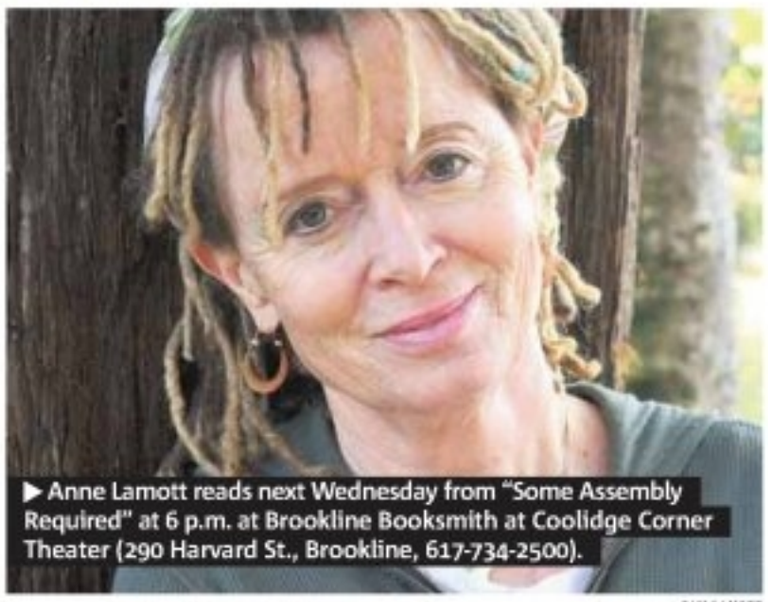
A new (surprise) arrival

The arrival of Jax was a surprise to everyone involved, and Lamott says she had to comes to terms with being a grandmother a lot sooner than she expected. "Sam and I are quite close, and I'd always looked forward with enthusiasm to becoming a grandmother someday, in, say, 10 years from now," she writes in the preface. "Amy was 20 and Sam was 19. They're both a little young, but who asked me?"



▶ Anne Lamott reads next Wednesday from "Some Assembly Required" at 6 p.m. at Brookline Booksmith at Coolidge Corner Theater (290 Harvard St., Brookline, 617-734-2500).

SAM LAMOTT

A mother's — and then a grandmother's — first year of grace

Anne Lamott's 'Operating Instructions' led a generation through becoming parents ◐ Now her son has a son ◐ She helps him figure out how to be a parent — while she learns to be a grandparent — in latest book

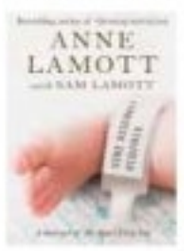
Before there was such a thing as a "mommy blogger," there was writer Anne Lamott, whose 1993 confessional memoir "Operating Instructions: A Journal of My Son's First Year" — which detailed all the messy and joyous ins and outs of having a baby — was a huge best-seller. Now, 19 years later, she's written (with help from her young son, Sam) a follow-up of sorts: "Some Assembly Required: A Journal of My Son's First Son," about the first year of her grandson Jax's life.

Lamott says she thought of writing "Some Assembly Required," although "not in any kind of meaningful way," and that it was her editor and Sam who pushed her to follow through with it. "I thought, 'I don't want to do it, I'd already done it,'" she remembers. "But when I mentioned it to Sam, he had so much enthusiasm for it. 'Operating Instructions' made such a difference to Sam's sense of self — he says in the preface that he can feel my heart when he reads it. That made me want to do it."

"Operating Instructions" is a love letter to Sam, and the same can be said for "Some Assembly Required" and Jax — the baby is at the heart of the memoir. Like any first-time grandparent, "I fell so desperately, pathetically in love with him," she recalls. And so a component of "Some Assembly Required" is her struggle with letting go of control of Sam and his girlfriend Amy's parenting process. "They get to do what I did," she says, "which is raise my kid as I see fit. But if I got to, I'd either run alongside Sam and Jax or I'd be behind them in my car trying to throw them off my scent, with a newspaper between me and the wheel. But you don't get to; you really have to let them go."

How Sam helped

▶ Sam's contribution comes by way of his mother interviewing him, or through e-mails he would send her. "A lot of the interviews were natural," she says. "He's very sweet. He'd call to check in and I'd say, 'Wait, wait! Let me get my laptop!' and I'd start scribbling notes and get it verbatim because it would be, to me, very profound."



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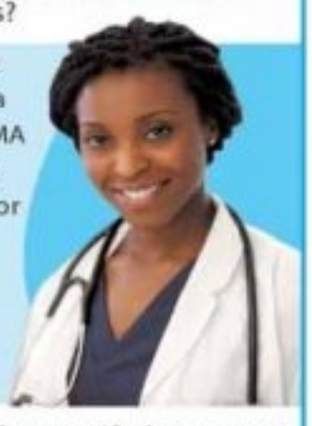
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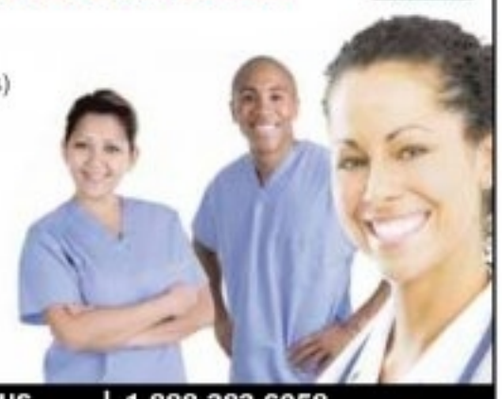

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Illuminating the Haggadah

▶ Foer

▶ Englander

With 'New American Haggadah,' Jonathan Safran Foer and Nathan Englander hope to provide a more accessible version of the Seder text

That Jonathan Safran Foer is part of the team behind "New American Haggadah" — a revised English translation of the sacred Jewish prayer book — isn't entirely surprising. The intricacies, subtleties, trickeries and delicacies of language are as much a part of his writings as the themes of family, tradition and Judaism that act as the fleeting scaffolding of much of his work.

And yet, Foer doesn't consider himself a person of faith, let alone a rabbinical scholar.

"When I started thinking about what it might read like, what it might look like, what its function might be in the world, I gave a lot of thought to people who might translate it," says Foer. "Should it be Hebrew language translators? But then I started thinking, what are some other possibilities? Could we create something that wasn't so obscure? In my mind, a lot of English translations are unnecessarily confusing."

Ultimately, Foer recruited longtime friend and fellow fiction author Nathan Englander to do the new translation of the text, which is read at the Seder table each year and plays a central role in the celebration. Far from the flashy project that you could reasonably expect from two young writers with a large bag of literary playthings, "New American Haggadah" has a quiet reverence for its ancient source material, reflected in both the translation and essays by writers including Lemony Snicket and Rebecca Newberger Goldstein.

"I've been going to Seders as long as I've been alive. They always meant a great deal to me, but I always suspected that they could mean even more," says Foer. "The Seder is in so many ways constrained by the Haggadah — it directs the conversations that people have, it affects the pacing of the evening. It's hard to have a good, engaging Seder without a good, engaging Haggadah."

MONICA WEYMOUTH
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On 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'

The film adaptation of Foer's 2005 novel "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" was a Best Picture nominee at the Academy Awards last month.

He saw the film out of curiosity, but not as a literary watchdog. "It's complicated — I wrote the book. It's not like I was some schmuck walking into the theater wondering 'Will this be good?' But I didn't feel any proprietary [feelings] toward the story or the characters."

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Letters

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Faith: Between you and your maker

RE: "PROUD KIRK CAMERON SUPPORTER SPEAKS": To E. Taylor and others who recently wrote in about Kirk Cameron: Both my partner of 36 years and I are churchgoing Christians and take great umbrage to people quoting the Bible for their own limited view of the world. Leviticus calls for any woman caught in an adulterous affair to be taken out and stoned. Is anyone concerned that we don't do that anymore? Must we follow ancient laws for a patriarchal, agricultural and largely nomadic society?
ROGER GORDON, VIA E-MAIL

E. Taylor, I feel sorry for you that the god you have chosen for yourself is a fallible one. My God, however, does not make mistakes. If you truly believe that the Bible was presented verbatim from heaven, then why do you rely on a translation of a translation? The Old Testament was not introduced in the antiquated Old English of the King James, nor the prose of the ancient Greek Septuagint, but in the Semitic dialect of the Hebrew tribes. If you want to spout and tout sensationalist Bible teachings, learn the book in its original language.
MATT TURCHIN, VIA E-MAIL

Since I was created gay by God, who never makes mistakes, what is there to repent?
BOB SIKSO, VIA E-MAIL

Homosexuality is present in many species in nature and has been present in mankind for centuries; so yes, it is normal. The Bible is a work of man and is a product of its era. If we condemn homosexuality, we must also condemn eating shrimp and wearing mixed fibers on the same level. The Bible remains a convenient excuse for bigots to oppress homosexuals, wallowing in the cloak of "faith."
DANIELLE TREMBLAY, VIA E-MAIL

It's fine to imagine a space-ghost sent telepathic messages to hundreds of people for a thousand years to cobble the Bible. But no one has the right to shove their delusions upon those who don't share in them or to force others to behave in a manner they've arbitrarily adopted as "truth."
THOMAS FERRUGIA, VIA E-MAIL

Kirk Cameron spoke the truth: The Holy Bible speaks against homosexuality. I completely support Cameron because he was bold enough to say it. The opposition to his statement shows that anyone who supports homosexuality has a double standard; they say they want tolerance but they are extremely intolerant. They have a problem with anyone who opposes their liberal views. They aren't just mad at Kirk Cameron, they are mad because the Bible has spoken out against them. In a way it doesn't make sense, because all they have to do is come to the Bible with an open mind and they will find that the Bible doesn't condemn them personally but it condemns their actions and gives them the remedy to change or seek help if they are humble enough to ask for it. **JOHN HEMPHILL, VIA E-MAIL**

My opinion on Cameron's faith is simple: More power to him. I hope he finds someone he can love and spend the rest of his life with. As for his religion, what he believes is between him and God, and any harm such inflicts is on his conscience.
JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

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Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Something in which you've been involved has greater potential than you realize. Fortunately, you'll become aware of its total value and do something about it.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Make your judgment calls based on what you like as well as on tactics that have worked for you before. If it was a winner in the past, chances are it will be again.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Your leadership qualities are likely to be accentuated. Others will do as you ask, not because of any commands you make but because you'll inspire them to do so.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** It'll be the things you unselfishly do for others that will yield you some surprising benefits. Whatever you do from the goodness of your heart will be justly rewarded.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you get the chance, spend the day with a friend in whom you can confide. It can be very helpful to thrash things out with someone who has your best interests at heart.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Your manner allows others to feel comfortable in your presence, making you easy to work with. Those who join up with you could end up achieving something they couldn't do on their own.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** A better-than-average cycle for developing new friends and/or social contacts is opening up for you at this point in time. Make the most of it by getting out and mingling with new people.

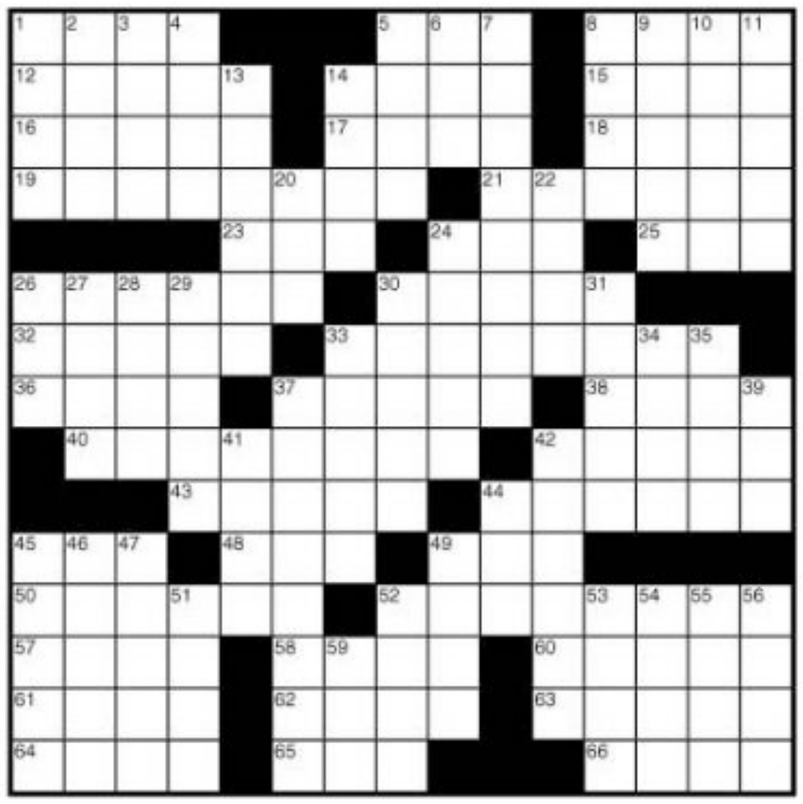
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** You could be extremely adept in helping others sort out their problems. If asked, don't hesitate to offer what you think might be a good solution to someone in need.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Don't hesitate to take a firm stance on an issue about which you are extremely familiar. Eventually those who think differently will see the light.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Someone who needs the skill and knowledge you possess will be approaching you for help. Be reasonable about the fees you charge for your services.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Instead of looking at life too seriously, think of it as a game to be played that you'd like to win. If you follow the rules, it can be both fun and productive at the same time.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** You're likely to have a great deal of strength and inner resolve upon which to draw. If you make the most of it, it will not only serve you well but also act as an inspiration to others. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**



Across
1 Have on
5 __ choy
8 Cat goddess of Egypt
12 Any of Charlie's girls
14 Wildebeest chaser
15 Humerus neighbor
16 Mail carrier's beat
17 Diamond Head locale
18 Lake bird
19 Stereo components
21 The Terminator, for one
23 Kind of jump
24 Sugar Ray stat
25 Clairvoyant
26 Take a dive
30 Fuzzes up
32 Timex competitor
33 Uses pomade
36 Flank
37 Dig discovery
38 Window-rattling
40 Tennis gear
42 Wish granters
43 Jazz pianist __ Blake
44 Atlas closeups
45 Santa __ winds
48 Question
49 "Wheel of Fortune" buy (2 wds.)
50 "Kubla Khan" setting
52 Not a picky eater
57 Strong emotion
58 Extra
60 Not pickled
61 Bahrain VIP
62 Emerald Isle
63 Marina rentals
64 Rocket housing
65 Temp. unit
66 Course finale

Down
1 Toad feature
2 Sufficient
3 The chills
4 Solar plexus
5 Dressmaker's cut
6 Cry of delight
7 __ under(gave in)
8 Tulip source
9 Remote
10 Night racket
11 Zestful
13 Releases(2 wds.)
14 Ms. Petty
20 Barely make do
22 It's enveloped in white
24 Stadium levels
26 Dell wares
27 Animal's home
28 Beef-rating org.
29 Female relative
30 Batter's place
31 Graf rival
33 Harem head
34 Fourth piggy's portion
35 Look good on
37 Included
39 Insult, slangily
41 Dorm view
42 Metamorphic rock
44 Motor lodge
45 Wheel rods
46 Eldest Judd
47 Smithy's block
49 Prayer closing
51 Space preceder
52 Not a repro.
53 Battery word
54 Play award
55 Gym iterations
56 Formerly, old-style
59 Mine bonanza

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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8		2					3	
	7		6		1		2	
	3					5		7
		5			3	8		9
4					8			
		3		5	9	2		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

M	O	C	H	A		E	L	L	A		R	A	V	E
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C	O	P	P	I	C	E	S		B	R	I	D	L	E
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V	E	G	A		L	E	G	S		A	R	E	N	A
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D	O	R	E		G	A	D	S		S	L	A	S	H

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NCL Norwegian Cruise Line — Receive up to $450 Onboard Credit plus FREE Upgrades on select sailings

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Ocean View $569* Fr. pp / Balcony $659* Fr. pp	Ocean View $519* Fr. pp / Balcony $739* Fr. pp	Ocean View $529* Fr. pp / Balcony $659* Fr. pp	Ocean View $759* Fr. pp / Balcony $989* Fr. pp

Holland America Line — Receive up to $125 Onboard Credit, Free Dining, Wine or Champagne plus up to $500 Back on select sailings

7-Day Caribbean	7-Day Alaska	7-Day Bermuda	10-Day Panama
$499* Fr. pp	$549* Fr. pp	$599* Fr. pp	$649* Fr. pp
Ocean View $549* Fr. pp / Balcony $699* Fr. pp	Ocean View $649* Fr. pp / Balcony $999* Fr. pp	Ocean View $699* Fr. pp / Balcony $999* Fr. pp	Ocean View $699* Fr. pp / Balcony $899* Fr. pp

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*Prices are pp/dbl. Cruise only on select sailings. Certain restrictions apply. Gov't taxes and fees are additional. Prices include NCF's. Prices are quoted in US dollars. All itineraries and prices are current at time of printing and are subject to change without notice. All exclusive deals are per cabin on select ships and sail dates and are not redeemable for cash. Ships' Registry: The Bahamas and Panama. CST #2015595-50 / Lowest Price Guarantee: In order to qualify for the guarantee the competitor's rate that appears in the advertising must be available for booking and be on the identical Cruise-only product. (Ship, Date, Destination, Category, etc.) The customer must meet the requirements for any rules that apply from the cruise lines in offering the rate. The guarantee does not apply to air, land components, onboard charges etc. This offer is only valid on cruise lines that are memebers of CLIA.

What to do

▶ Lincoln Jones

Boats, boats, boats

You don't have to arrive via boat to get to the Abacos, but you need to get one to fully experience it. A little geography lesson: The Abacos are comprised of the main islands of Great Abaco and Little Abaco (where most of the commerce is located). These are surrounded by 11 smaller, beautiful cays. If you have a little boating experience, you can rent a boat for a day to visit them. Or you can seek out legendary local Lincoln Jones, who will take you fishing for bountiful red snapper, yellow tail and silver snapper, as well as lobster spearing and snorkeling. He'll then host you and your group for a deserted beach fish fry to cook up your catch (go-abacos.com/lincoln).

Where to stay

Abaco Beach Resort at Boat Harbour

Since 1955, this laid-back, easy-going hotel has been a favored place where boaters, beachgoers and adventurers congregate. Centrally located in Marsh Harbor on Grand Abaco, next to a collection of restaurants and shops, **Abaco Beach Resort (abacobeachresort.com)** is a perfect jumping off spot to spend the day cay hopping.

ABACO BEACH RESORT

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

What to see

Abaco nature tours

Be sure to book an eco-tour with the spitfire Ricky Jones, who will teach you all about the Abaco Islands (abaconature.com). Bird watching your thing? He'll take you to see the endangered Bahama or "Abaco" parrots. Or book him for a kayaking and bike trip — or even a tour to visit Abaco's blue holes. Sure, bird watching and an ecotour might not have the same allure as, say, drinking Goombay Smashes while overlooking a pristine harbor, but the intrepid Ricky makes topography interesting.

What to drink

Goombay Smash

The Bahamian national drink is the Goombay Smash. You'll need to take a ferry over to Grand Turtle Cay to try where it (allegedly) all originated, the sun-baked Blue Bee Bar. Violet, the daughter of the bar's founder, Miss Emily, welcomes locals and in-the-know tourists alike. The Smash is also on the menu at most Abaco restaurants and bars.

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Vandy will be stiff test

Harvard's path to upset city will be plenty difficult with Vanderbilt standing in the way
John Jenkins the sharpshooter for the Commodores **Vandy a sleeper to go to Final Four**

Vanderbilt is sometimes referred to as the "Harvard of the South," whereas those on the Nashville campus like to look at Harvard as the "Vanderbilt of the North."

Clearly, the two institutions take their academic reputations very seriously. However, when they tangle on the hardwood Thursday in the second round of the NCAA tournament, you will see few similarities.

The fifth-seeded Commodores have a great go-to guy in guard John Jenkins, who topped the SEC in scoring and leads the nation in 3-pointers, and plenty of size up front. Harvard starts nobody over 6-foot-8, has a leading scorer in Kyle Casey who averages just 11.3 points per game and is one of the stingiest defensive teams in the nation.

If the Crimson assert themselves early, set a defensive tone and get some production on the other end from Casey and a few others, they may be OK. But if Jenkins gets going and big men like 6-foot-11 Festus Ezeli and Lance Goulbourne prove too much along the frontline, Harvard could fall to 0-3 all-time in the NCAAs, the first two losses taking place 66 years ago in the Crimson's last trip to the tourney.

And if (yes, another if) Harvard pulls off the upset (the 12-seed has won this game seven times in the last four years), a possible date with Wisconsin looms in the second round. The Badgers lead the nation in scoring defense (52.9 points per game) while the Crimson ranks fourth (54.8). The first to 45 may take that one.

First things first, however. In regards to Vanderbilt, here's a little more to get you primed for the Crimson's first NCAA tournament game since March 23, 1946.

- **When and where:** Thursday, 4:40 p.m., Albuquerque, N.M., TNT
- **Record vs. tournament teams:** Harvard 2-1, Vanderbilt 6-5
- **Key matchup:** Harvard F Keith Wright vs. Vanderbilt C Festus Ezeli – The two biggest starters in the contest will be central in the battle of the boards.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Brandyn Curry looks for the open man against Columbia earlier this month.

Despite giving up three inches and about 20 pounds, Wright grabbed nearly three rebounds more per game. Goulbourne, a senior like Ezeli, led the Commodores on the glass this season.

TONY LEE
sports@metro.us

Matching wits

Breaking down the Harvard-Vanderbilt matchup:

- **Numerically speaking:** Seniors made 40 percent of Harvard's starts this season. They comprised 79 percent of Vanderbilt's.
- **Harvard** ranks 27th in the nation in free-throw percentage at 74.6.
- **SEC tournament** In Vandy's run to the tournament title, in which they beat No. 1 overall seeded Kentucky, John Jenkins shot 78 percent from 3-point range. Jenkins went a very impressive 32-of-41 from deep.

Quoted

"I want to win. My career's over when we lose so I want it to last as long as we can."
HARVARD'S OLIVER MCNALLY

"As the game got closer in the end, (my players) got tighter and tighter and tighter."
VANDERBILT COACH KEVIN STALLINGS ON LOSING TO NO. 12 RICHMOND LAST YEAR

In the news

Mrs. Ochocinco
"Basketball Wives" star Evelyn Lozada will wed Patriots wide receiver Chad Ochocinco soon and, of course, it will be on camera.

VH1 will run an eight-part series called "Ev and Ocho" starting in September. The series will culminate with a broadcast of the couple's wedding.

Lozada was previously married to former Celtics star Antoine Walker.

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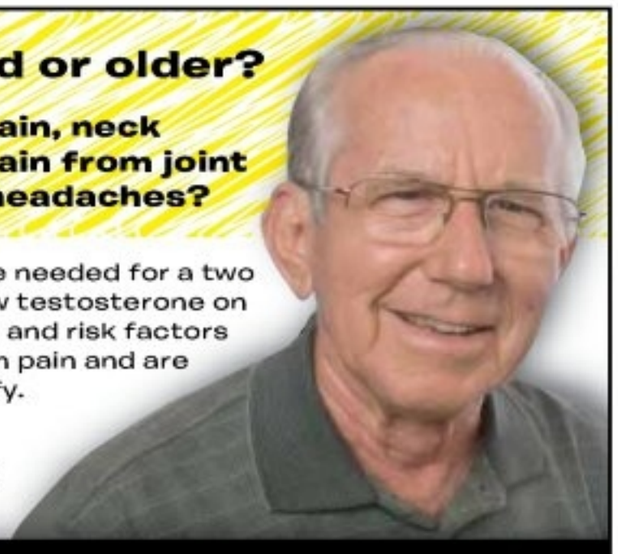

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GUY'S GUIDE TO THE TOURNAMENT

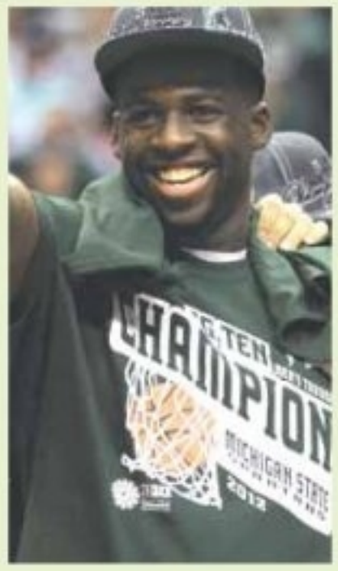
UCONN

Athletics: A-minus. A three-time national champ in hoops. A football program that at least plays Division I football ... the Big East is still Division I, right?
Academics: B. Not too smart. Not too dumb. Just right.
Talent: B-minus. There just aren't enough 70-plus degree days where tanning at Mirror Lake showcases the true female potential.
Weather: D-plus. The fall in Connecticut is pretty. For about two weeks. Spring is nice too — for two weeks.

FLORIDA STATE

Athletics: B. This school is so '90s it should have Zach Morris, Bell Biv DeVoe and "Stone Cold" Steve Austin heading the athletic department.
Academics: C. Ranked the No. 46 public school in US News' rankings. That's not great, but it's damn good for Florida!
Talent: A-minus. Now we're talking. FSU grabs all the Southern girls who want to have a career and want to have an ungodly amount of fun for four to seven years. Tan lines for all!
Weather: B-plus.Tallahassee ain't South Beach. But it ain't Buffalo either.

MICHIGAN STATE



Athletics: B-plus. Painfully underrated. Tom Izzo gets his teams to the Final Four routinely and the football team at least competes in a true football conference.
Academics: B. Painfully underrated again due to rival Michigan's brilliance in the books.
Talent: C. Too close to Detroit for comfort. That Midwest twang only goes so far.
Weather: D-plus. To think, they actually hosted a Super Bowl in Michigan? Hopefully the NFL learned its lesson.

DUKE

Athletics: B-plus. Coach K has made Duke the premier hoops school in the nation. But its football team once again drags down its score. Nothing new here.
Academics: A-plus. Consider that UConn's new school president is a Duke grad.
Talent: D-plus. Kentucky has Ashley Judd. Missouri has Sheryl Crow (hot in her day). Syracuse has Vanessa Williams (smoke show in her

day). UConn has April O'Neil (aka Paige Turco). Duke? Your response?
Weather: B-minus. North Carolina. Meh.

ALABAMA

Athletics: A. Hate him or love him, Nick Saban wins national championships. Arguably the best football school in the world, the tailgate in Tuscaloosa is otherworldly as well.
Academics: C. That pseudosmart girl from your high school who strangely liked NASCAR and was badly in need of braces? She goes here.
Talent: B-plus. Southern belles aplenty. Plus, unlike Northeast girls, they actually understand football. No lie.
Weather: B-minus. Humid!

MURRAY STATE

Athletics: C-. Not bad for their lot in life. They routinely sneak into the Big Dance and make goons everywhere pick them because they think Bill Murray has something to do with the school.
Academics: C-minus. Not bad for Kentucky. A top-rated Southern school.
Talent: D. Their most notable alum? Ernest from the "Ernest Goes to Jail"

enterprise.
Weather: B-minus. At least they're a road trip away from the Kentucky Derby.

SYRACUSE

Athletics: C-plus. We're coming up on the 10-year anniversary of Jim Boeheim's lone NCAA title. Still, their fans carry themselves as if they're Duke in hoops and LSU on the gridiron.
Academics: B-plus. This school gave us Marv Albert, Bob Costas, Mike Tirico and Sean McDonough. You have to like one of those guys if you like sports.
Talent: C. Who knows with all those clothes on

all year?
Weather: F. A good place for a sequel to "The Shining."

SAN DIEGO STATE

Athletics: D. Marshall Faulk, Tony Gwynn. And that's about it. How can you not attract more athletes to San Diego? Who's running this ship!?
Academics: D. Let's just say SDSU won't be confused with Princeton anytime soon. But being homeless in SD isn't all bad, truth be told.
Talent: A-plus. There isn't much silicone seen at, say, Wisconsin in February. In SoCal, every day's a pool party.
Weather: A. We've covered this. But it does get below 60 degrees sometimes at night. Brrrr.

FINAL FOUR

At the risk of sounding like every greedy NBA star, weather matters when choosing a location to be the master of your domain.

Warm weather brings in hot girls and high quality athletes. No surprise there.

Therefore, in the Guy's Guide pool, we have Florida State ousting Syracuse, San Diego State blasting Alabama, Duke besting UConn and Michigan State beating the surprising Racers. Your national champion? FSU parties like it's 1997.

MATT BURKE
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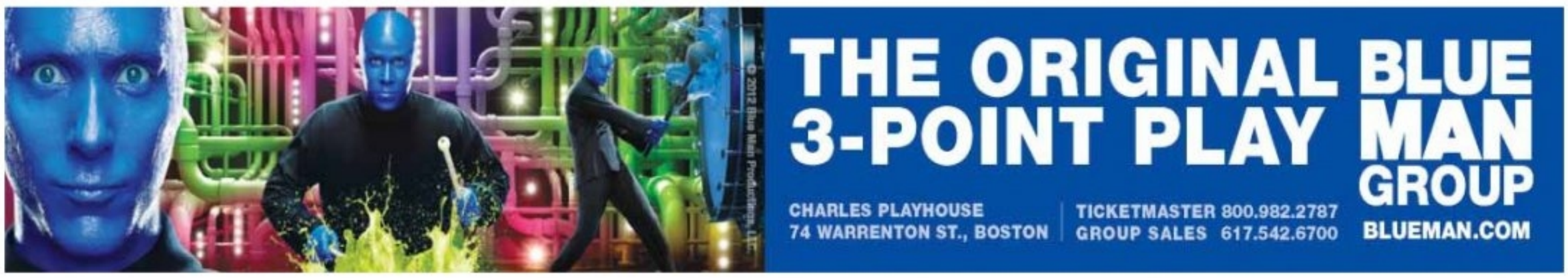


Who's hot, not in NHL

Bruins once again struggling while looking to stay healthy for playoffs ◐ Pittsburgh coming on strong with Crosby expected back ◐ Luongo a disaster in net as of late

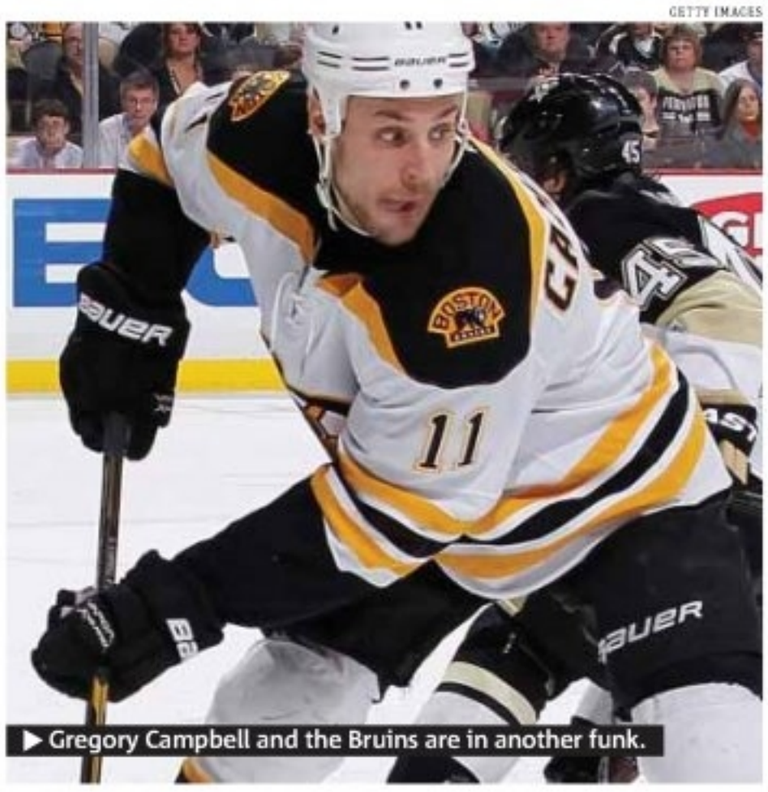
With the regular season down to its final four weeks, we take a snapshot of the best and worst in the NHL thus far in the month of March:

WHO'S HOT

Team: Pittsburgh. As the Bruins found out on Sunday, the Penguins are on the march in March, having now won nine in a row to take a serious run at No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference. And things might only be getting better this week with the impending return Thursday of Sidney Crosby.

Offense: Ilya Kovalchuck, Devils; Jordan Caron, Bruins. You expect it from a guy like Kovalchuck, who has 11 points in March (5 goals, 6 assists) and carries a plus-6. But Caron? With Nathan Horton out, Caron has been getting it done this month, with a league-leading plus-8 over the past 10 days, with three goals and seven points.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Gregory Campbell and the Bruins are in another funk.

Goal: Ilya Bryzgalov, Flyers. The goaltending nightmare in Philadelphia is over. After last year's playoff debacle, the Flyers spent big bucks to get Bryzgalov, and the dividends are coming now, with a 5-0 start to March, including three shutouts for a goals-against average of 0.98.

WHO'S NOT

Team: Boston. You knew that was coming. Since winning back-to-back games for the first time since Jan. 10-12 last week, the Bruins promptly went out and lost to Washington and Pittsburgh over the weekend to further loosen their grip on the Northeast Division title.

Offense: Alex Ovechkin, Capitals. Not a lot of O from Ovechkin lately. In his past five games, Ovechkin has attempted 23 shots and scored just one goal. He also has one assist, and is lugging around a minus-3 over that period, as the Caps cling to the No. 8 seed in the East.

Goal: Robert Luongo, Canucks. Sure, it would be easy to point out that Tim Thomas is 3-4 in March, but we'll pump Thomas' tires a bit by pointing out that Luongo has a dreadful 5.34 GAA over his past three games, including allowing three goals in five minutes against Buffalo a week ago.

JEFF GOLDBERG
sports@metro.us

▶ Manning

Manning recruiting not over yet

Free agent quarterback Peyton Manning plans to meet with coaches Joe Philbin, of the Dolphins, and Mike Munchak, of the Titans, over the next few days, according to ESPN.

Today is the beginning of the new "league year," and it has become apparent that Manning will not finalize his plans by the end of today.

Titans owner Bud Adams told The Tennessean, "I want Manning." METRO

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No More Know-Nothing Laws:
School Choice in Massachusetts

Keynote Remarks by:
Kevin Chavous
Board Chairman,
Black Alliance for Educational Options
and Co-Founder,
Democrats for Education Reform

Introductory Remarks from:
Jay Greene
21st Century Chair in Education Reform,
University of Arkansas

Thursday, March 15, 2012
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Boston
One Avenue de Lafayette
Boston, MA

Kevin Chavous is a noted attorney, author and national school reform leader. As Chair of the District of Columbia Council's Education Committee, Mr. Chavous was at the forefront of promoting change within the public school system. His efforts led to over 500 million new dollars being made available to educate children in DC.

Jay Greene is the 21st Century Chair in Education Reform at the University of Arkansas. Mr. Greene researches and writes about education policy, school choice, high school graduation rates, accountability, and special education.

Pioneer Institute, in conjunction with the Black Alliance for Education Options, Democrats for Education Reform, Harvard University's Program on Education Policy and Governance, the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, and the Parents Alliance for Catholic Education, will examine the Blaine Amendments as obstacles to school choice and offer strategies for revocation.

A panel of experts will be moderated by Thomas Finneran, WRKO radio host and former Massachusetts Speaker of the House.

Following the event, Mr. Chavous will be signing his new book, *Voices of Determination: Children that Defy the Odds*·

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

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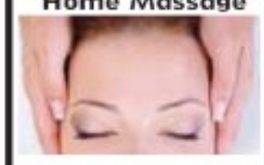

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at **617-532-0100** *or* **NEIL.CURRAN@METRO.US**

Grand Circle Travel

Worldwide discovery at extraordinary value

Would you like the opportunity to be part of the excitement of the travel industry?

Due to our continued growth we are seeking customer-focused individuals to join Grand Circle Corporation

Travel Sales Counselors

Would you like to earn $60,000+ a year? We are seeking Inside Sales Travel Counselors with strong customer relationship and sales skills. In this fast-paced, inbound call center sales role, you will strive to achieve sales and quality goals as you sell Grand Circle's vacations to all corners of the world. We provide a solid base salary and sales incentive plan (commission and bonuses).

Passion for Travel & Prior International Travel Experience Required.
Prior Call Center and Sales Experience Required.

Customer Service Associates

Work with our Traveler Support Team in our dynamic inbound call center. You will build relationships with our travelers, converse about far away destinations, and send our travelers on the journey of a lifetime. You will assist our clients by answering their questions regarding their trips and resolving their issues via phone and email.

Passion for Travel & Prior International Travel Experience Required.
Prior Call Center Experience Required.

Grand Circle Corporation is a premier direct marketer and the world leader in international travel, adventure and discovery for Americans over 50. Headquartered in Boston, MA, we are a $600M global enterprise with 30 regional offices worldwide that employs more than 2,000 associates.

Please visit **www.gct.com/careers** to apply

Call center located: GCC Corporate Headquarters • 347 Congress St. Boston, MA

Accessible by MBTA-Two blocks from South Station